Rubber Board Assistance to Tribals in Assam

4269. DR. JAYANTA BONGPI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tribal beneficiaries assisted by the Rubber Board in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam since the Board started its function there;

(b) the subsidy released to such tribal beneficiaries during the above period, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the area in hectares covered by rubber crop during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Approximately 425 tribal rubber growers have been assisted by the Rubber Board since it started functioning in Assam.

(b) An amount of about Rs. 57.50 lakhs has been released as financial assistance to the above tribal beneficiaries, year-wise break-up of which is as follows :—

Till	1986-87	Rs. 2.25 lakhs
	1987-88	Rs. 14.24 lakhs
	1988-89	Rs. 15.33 lakhs
	1989-90	Rs. 16.05 lakhs
	1990-91	Rs. 9.63 lakhs

(c) Year-wise break-up of area planted with rubber in Karbi Anglong is given below :—

Year	Extent (Ha.)
1980	122.78
1981	192.96
1982	14.26
1983	21.62
1984	41.00
1985	35.70
1986	15.69
1987	204.90
1988	208.03
1989	114.79
1990	14.00
TOTAL	985.73

Inclusion of Handloom Reservation Act, 1985 in Ninth Schedule of Constitution

4270. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to include the Handloom Reservation Act, 1985 in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) The matter of reservation of products for exclusive production on handlooms is a commitment of the Government. This was enshrined in the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 and was to be implemented through orders issued under the Act whereby a total of 22 handloom items were reserved for exclusive production on handlooms.

Because of the legal bottlenecks, the Act and the orders have remained virtually inoperative. To overcome these legal problems the Constitution (Seventythird Amendment) Bill 1990 was introduced for consideration and

passage in the Monsoon and Winter sessions of the Ninth Lok Sabha. That time the Amendment Bill could not be taken up for consideration and passage. Before the Bill is reintroduced in the current session of Parliament, a certain procedure has to be followed which is under way.

Simplification of Exports Procedure

4271. SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to simplify the documentation involving exports;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the date from which it will be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Simplified format of Application, Bank Certificate of export and realisation, and other supporting documents for claiming replenishment benefits by exporters have been notified vide Public Notice No. 185-ITC(PN)/90-93 dated 31st July, 1991. Simplification in supporting documents for grant of licences under duty exemption scheme have also been notified vide Public Notice No. 191-ITC(PN)/90-93 dated the 14th August, 1991. Copies of Public Notices are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The above changes have become effective from the date of the issuance of the Public Notices.

Foreign Investment

4272. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing guidelines for foreign investment in the country by way of dividend and royalty;

(b) whether the foreign investment has helped in economic and financial field;

(c) whether the Government propose to ensure that foreign investment in-flow is twice its flow by dividend and royalty; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Foreign companies which have been allowed equity participation in Indian companies are eligible to repatriate dividends subject to Indian taxes. They may also repatriate royalty upto 5% of domestic sales and 8% of exports.

(b) Foreign investment and technology collaboration is welcomed to obtain higher technology, to increase exports and to expand the production base.

(c) and (d) Dividend payments shall be allowed in case of direct foreign investment upto 51 per cent foreign equity in high priority industries so as to ensure that out flows on account of such payments are balanced by export earnings over a period of time.